



# 517<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

**MailCall No. 2236**

**October 12, 2014**

*517th Parachute Infantry Regiment  
460th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion  
596th Parachute Combat Engineer Company*

Website  
Send MailCall news to  
MailCall Archives  
2013 Roster (updated!)  
Thunderbolt (Winter 2014)

[www.517prct.org](http://www.517prct.org)  
[MailCall@517prct.org](mailto:MailCall@517prct.org)  
[www.517prct.org/archives](http://www.517prct.org/archives)  
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## *MailCall News*

From **Phil McSpadden**:



John Wayne 1970 leading God Bless America

<http://biggeekdad.com/2014/09/john-wayne-1970/#.VCGDoNG-jXw.gmail>

Only some of us can remember these people, but the message is just as important today as it was back then.  
Have a great day!



## *517<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regimental Combat Team*

**Subject:** Allan is headed to France for the anniversary of the liberation of Sospel

Greetings, all -

Allan really wanted to return to France for the anniversary of the liberation of Sospel, and I have been watching the flights. We just booked it two days ago, and he is very happy to be going. I believe that the granddaughter of Howard Hensleigh, Allison, is also going, so they will get to meet there!

I cannot believe that he's returning to France before I've even figured out what to do with my pictures or written notes of thanks!

My reason for reaching out to all - and I hope to Jean-Loop, through Mail Call - is that Dad has expressed an interest in trying to locate the place where he was involved in a small skirmish with a few Germans on 16 August. He has better details than I am recalling for the purpose of this email, but

- He landed in Callian and they were on foot headed to the DZ, so it should be someplace on the small roads between Callian and Le Muy/Les Arcs/La Motte
- They had stopped for a bit when locals came running to warn them about the Germans in the area.
- There was a relatively short skirmish and exchange of gunfire. He was with about 5 or 7 other guys.
- Later on that day, they got a ride for the last few minutes to the DZ - everyone hanging on an overfilled Jeep, I think. But it turns out that they were almost there, anyway.
- He thinks that when he finally got to the area later on 16 August that they were in the area of Le Mitan/General Frederick's HQ.

We think that this probably should have been documented somewhere. Any clues or ideas?

Thank you all –

**Claire Giblin**

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RE: add me to mailing list

My name is **Margo Grbinich-Hunt**.

I am the eldest daughter of **Frank Grbinich** who served in A Company of the 517th.

I would like to stay informed of the happenings with the 517th! Also, are there any men still living from A company? My Dad used to stay very active and was even a reunion chairperson before he passed away in 1995.

Thank you.  
Sincerely,

Margo  
[margo511@aol.com](mailto:margo511@aol.com)



## 517<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regimental Combat Team

My father was **Robert Geary** of D co 517th. He is in photos on your sight. He passed in 1983. He never talked about his service. I believed he lost many friends in the war and did want to remember.

R c Geary.

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Hi Robert,

I don't see any specific mentions of your Dad in my files, but I also don't have many records from D Company. Do you have any photos of him from his time with the 517th that we could have for the website?

Thanks,  
Bob Barrett

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In **Ed Smith's** photos four of boys on mt top my father is front row 2nd from left and next he is standing in back row first on left. I also have some of the same photos. I will send the photos to you via I a mail if you will send them back. Bob Geary.



(standing L to R) Faiola, Gettman, Lewis, Bonner, Jimmy Olsen  
(kneeling L to R) Ben Shankman, Geary, McDade, Canziani

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Thanks for the info. I did see a Geary noted in those same photos on **Mike Kane's** page [http://517prct.org/photos/d\\_company\\_files/kane\\_company\\_d.htm](http://517prct.org/photos/d_company_files/kane_company_d.htm) but it didn't list a first name. And there is another Geary also in D Company, so I didn't know.

If you have those exact same photos, I don't need them, but if you have any others, I would love to add them to the website. Yes, If you cannot scan them, I can do that. If you like, you could send them to me. I'll be sure to send the originals back to you quickly.

Regards,  
Bob B.

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I believe that there was only one Geary and the first name was wrong. My father did not ever say anything about another Geary. Geary is not to common and to have two in same co does not seem possible. Will get photos to you in near term.

Bob G.



# 517<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regimental Combat Team

From the guestbook:

## Submitted by

Name: **GERALD G. STOKES**

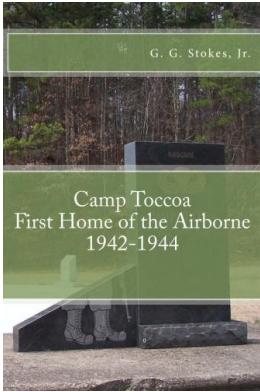
From: AMERICUS, GA

E-mail: [LINDASTOKESFOSTER@GMAIL.COM](mailto:LINDASTOKESFOSTER@GMAIL.COM)

## Comments:

517TH- Co.D

Added: October 6, 2014



**Gerald Stokes** is listed with G Company on the Christmas roster.

His son, G.G. Stokes, Jr. wrote a history of Camp Toccoa:

[http://www.amazon.com/Camp-Toccoa-First-Airborne-1942-1944/dp/1461005868/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1301793626&sr=8-1](http://www.amazon.com/Camp-Toccoa-First-Airborne-1942-1944/dp/1461005868/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1301793626&sr=8-1)

Please add to the roster for 517thPRCT **Company G**

This veterans name is misspelled as "Stekes" in the Christmas Roster under "Privates"

**STOKES, Gerald G.** (retired SFC)

1916 Rose Avenue  
Americus, GA 31709  
Phone: 229-9246247

A email sent earlier today listed this vet as a member of Co. D. This was an error.

Mr. Stokes is excited about attending any planned reunions.

James D. Foster

**Pvt. Gerald Stokes** is also mentioned in one of Hal Boyle's Stars and Stripes columns from January 1945: --->

## War Correspondent's Notebook

By Hal Boyle

WITH THE U. S. 517th PARACHUTE COMBAT TEAM (AP)—Every parachute trooper sweats out that 13th "black cat" jump.

Cpl. Burton E. Meador, Waco, Texas, made his without benefit of a parachute. He was dozing peacefully in his billet in a frozen sector of snowy Belgium one night when flames swept through his third floor room.

A fellow trooper accidentally had kicked over a can of gasoline and a stream of it ran by a hot stove and ignited.

There was only one sure exit—a window — and there was a three-floor drop to the ground. But Meador didn't hesitate. He dived out the window, counting from force of habit as he fell, and plunged into a deep snowdrift—unhurt.

"That was my 13th jump — and I didn't even have time to worry about it," said Meador.

A Nazi military decoration made a perfect target for Pvt. Ellwood Dobbins, of Boston, Mass.

Moving forward on the flank of a company attack, Dobbins saw a German wearing an Iron Cross on his chest about 10 yards away.

Dobbins drew a bead on the medal and put a bullet directly through it—and the enemy heart behind it.

In an attack to relieve a pinned down parachute company, Pfc. Donald "Kitty" Karr, of Barber-ton, Ohio, hit the dirt on the top of a small knoll when small arms fire spattered around him.

Suddenly he heard German voices directly under him — and realized that he was lying on a Nazi dugout.

Karr, who speaks little German, called out in a stern voice: "Throw your rifles outside and surrender."

Out came the rifles followed by three Germans with their hands

up. All Karr had for a weapon was an empty mortar tube—about as dangerous as a three-foot rain pipe!

Returning from a sniper unit to clean out some woods for his infantry company, Pvt. Gerald G. Stokes, of Tampa, Fla., became separated from his group.

When he bumped into the men from the relieving infantry unit he walked up to the company commander and said: "What's going on?"

The captain took one look at his "Gott Mit Uns" belt, his Iron Cross and Nazi bayonet—all battlefield souvenirs — and immediately put him under arrest as a Nazi suspect.

"I am a paratrooper," yelled Stokes indignantly.

"You're too small to be a paratrooper," replied the captain.

Stokes was herded back to a prisoner of war pen, probably the most forlorn paratrooper in the history of airborne armies.

There someone recognized him and a few minutes later he was free and boiling mad. He gave the captain a meaning look as he stalked away.

"It's funny," said the captain; "I thought he was the first prisoner we had taken with a southern accent."

A new way to double a cigaret ration has been found by Pvt. David G. Twight, of Hawthorne, Wis.—but it is a little dangerous.

He was with a group building an "up front" bridge and the enemy was pounding away with 88s. During one "10 minute break" Dave reached into his jacket for a cigaret.

He found that a piece of shrapnel had ripped through the jacket, cutting his pack of cigarets squarely in half.

"Here, fellows, have a stickie," he proffered. "I've got two packs of 'em."



## *517<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regimental Combat Team*

### *Administrivia*

- If you miss any MailCalls, they are all available online at <http://www.517prct.org/mailcall/>
- At any time, if you want to be added or removed from the MailCall list, just let me know, or just click on the unsubscribe link on the email.
- Send any news, stories, or feedback to: [MailCall@517prct.org](mailto:MailCall@517prct.org)
- If you send me email that you do not want included in MailCall, just label it as FYEO.
- I now understand how Ben could get confused about what he already posted and what he didn't. If I miss something, please just send it again.
- Donations for any programs involving the 517th should be sent to our new Association Treasurer: Identify the purpose of any donation (Annual Donations, In Memory of... etc.) and make all checks payable to:

**517 PRCT Association, Inc.**  
c/o Miriam Boyle Kelly  
19 Oriole Court  
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866